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# DEATH TANCE

KANA TAKEUCHI



NEW YORK, NEW YORK



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Book Series

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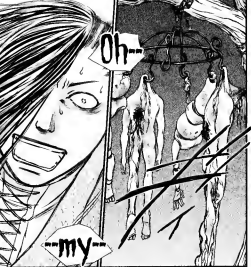


WHOA!



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!





WHERE-

THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

THIS ISN'T  
THE FOREST THAT  
I'M USED TO...

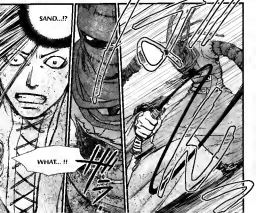
- AM I?

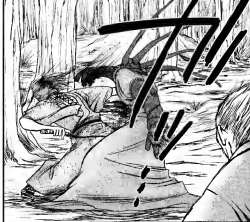
WHERE...















GET THE  
HELL OUT OF  
HERE!



DON'T JUST  
STAND THERE!  
GET OUT!

RUN!

RUNNNNN!!



FINALLY...



NOW I'VE  
GOT BETTER AIR  
CIRCULATION

I'M NOT  
DONE JUST  
YET!





HONORABLE PRIEST?

WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING?



NO! NO!

WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
YOUR FACE?



PLEASE  
EXCUSE ME  
I'M SORRY

I'M GOING  
TO THE FOREST TO  
TAKE A LOOK.

NEVER MIND  
BUT, WHAT HAPPENED  
TO YOU? YOU HAVE  
WOUNDS ON YOUR  
BEAUTIFUL FACE!

無不道即是







SHE WAS  
BORN

IN A  
WORLD FULL  
OF MISERY



WHEN ALL OF THIS IS OVER, WHEN

REALLY THIS PRINCE

TAKE CARE WITH POLA  
TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD



HER LIFE MUST  
HAVE BEEN FULL OF  
TRAGEDY—

—FOR HER FACE TO  
BE MARRED WITH  
SUCH SADNESS



ALTHOUGH I  
REALLY DON'T THINK  
HE WOULD COOPERATE  
AND COME WITH  
ME, EITHER...

SINCE I  
AWAKENED  
GRIVE,

I DO FEEL A  
STRONG SENSE OF  
RESPONSIBILITY





I CAN FEEL  
THE DEMONIC  
SPIRITS

WE FOUND  
WHAT I'M  
LOOKING FOR









YOU DIRT-FILLED  
PUPPETS...



RIN!

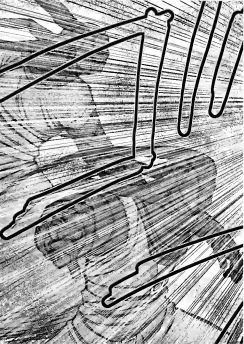


I'LL RETURN YOU  
TO THE GROUND YOU  
CAME FROM!













BUT, MY  
MASTER...



YOU'RE  
LYING.

HE'S DEAD!



HEY!  
SNAP OUT OF IT!

MY  
MASTER CAN'T  
BE DEAD!

HE'S THE  
STRONGEST MAN  
IN THE VILLAGE!

I'M GOING  
TO UNITE YOU!

MASTER!

MASTER!

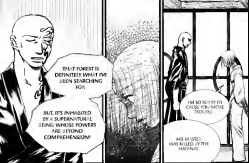


MASTER!















MY DAUGHTER  
IS MISSING?

I THINK  
SHE WENT TO HER  
FATHER'S GRAVE

MY HUSBAND'S  
GRAVE IS RIGHT NEXT  
TO THE FOREST!



MR. SHIRAYUKI!



I'M  
SO SORRY



IF YOU GO  
NEAR THE FOREST  
NOW--



CALM  
DOWN! I'LL GET  
FIND HER

BUT DON'T  
TELL ANYONE  
ABOUT THIS  
DREAM



BECAUSE I AM  
NOT GOOD AT BUT IM  
PRETTY GOOD

MR. SHIRAYUKI--

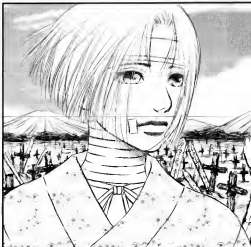


DON'T CRY

I SAID  
WE'RE FAMILY,  
RIGHT?





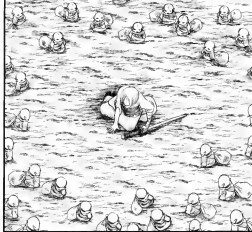


























OH... -

- MY...

GOD...















SOMEBODY!



STOP THEM,  
PLEASE!

WHAT?

HEY!!



SETTLE DOWN!





REVENGE...?



WHAT  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO?

GET REVENGE?



DAMNED  
MONK!

GET OUT  
OF THE WAY!



YOU ARE NO MATCH  
FOR THE HARD WAY YOU  
WILL ONLY BE THROWING  
YOUR LIVES AWAY!

IT'S THE TIME I  
SPOKE HIM...

YOUR MASTER HAD  
ALREADY DRAWN HIS  
LAST BREATH





WHAT...?



WAIT A MINUTE...

MS. SHIRAYUKI'S  
ALONE IN THE FOREST  
RIGHT NOW...



I'M SO SORRY  
MY DAUGHTER WAS  
PLAYING NEAR THE  
FOREST!

MS. SHIRAYUKI

KNOWING THAT  
THE PATRIARCHS WERE  
IN THE FOREST, WENT  
TO LOOK FOR HER, I



I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT  
I'M HEARING...



I'LL GO BACK -

- TO MY VILLAGE -



- WHERE  
MY PEOPLE ARE  
WAITING.



**I'M GOING TO  
MAKE IT BACK!**







WH...



WHY...?









I NEED  
TO HURRY.



PEOPLE ARE  
WAITING.







MY VILLAGE...



TO MY...



TO MY VILLAGE...





PEOPLE ARE  
WAITING—





YOU'RE NOT GOING  
TO LET US PASS...



NO MATTER WHAT...



THAT'S RIGHT





ZEN STOP!

SHIRAYUKI'S IN  
DANGER!



I KNOW  
I'M NO MATCH  
FOR YOU, SO—

— PLEASE!!  
LET ME GO!!!

IF SHIRAYUKI DIES,

WHAT WILL I...  
THE VILLAGE...

**STOP!**

DO?











OH...

SHIRAYUKI!







SHE'S NOT GOING  
TO MAKE IT.

YOU SHOULD  
HOLD HER HAND





SHI...



SHIRAYUKI!

HANG ON!

DON'T GIVE UP!



MS. SHIRAYUKI!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!



ZEN, GRAB...

HELP ME UP

SHIRAYUKI...



NO, PLEASE GOD, NO!

MS. SHIRAYUKI!

MS. SHI...

OH MY..!!



EVERYONE...

THANK YOU/  
FOR COMING OUT  
TO SEE ME



PLEASE FORGIVE  
ME FOR LEAVING  
YOU BEHIND

WITHOUT  
EVEN AN HEIR

PLEASE

I DON'T WANT  
ANYONE TO THINK  
ABOUT TAKING  
REVENGE







SHIRAYUKI...



ZEN,

PLEASE  
LEAD THEM  
FOR ME.



DO  
SOMETHING!  
HURRY!

I'M SORRY  
THERE'S NOTHING  
I CAN DO!



IF I  
REMOVE THE  
ARROWS-

- ALL OF  
HER BLOOD WILL  
DRAIN OUT!

HEY!



IT'S A  
MIRACLE...

SHE CAN STILL  
STAND...









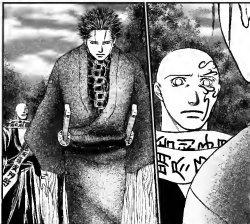




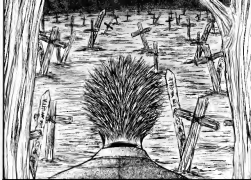


















THIS.

IS NOT  
ABOUT WINNING!

行梨殿







CAN YOU NOT  
SEE THAT A  
PERSON'S WORLD  
IS BUILT ON LOVE?

WHY  
CAN YOU NOT  
SEE THAT?

THERE IS  
NO MEANING  
IN WAR!

LIFE HAS NO  
VALUE FOR HEARTLESS  
MEN LIKE YOU!

EVEN KNOWING THAT,  
MS. SHIRAYUKI—

—WANTED YOU  
TO HAVE A LIFE.



IF THIS PLACE  
ONLY OFFERED  
BEDDISHED, THEN  
SHE WANTED  
ME TO-

-TAKE YOU TO THE  
OUTSIDE WORLD.





LET'S  
GO TO THE  
FOREST.





I WANT TO KNOW.

HAIENAS AREN'T  
BANDITS. WHAT DO  
THEY FIGHT WITH?

IS... THERE IS A  
MEANING...



I'VE BEEN  
ASKED—

BY MANY  
PEOPLE—



—TO GUIDE YOU  
TO SHOW YOU  
THE WAY.

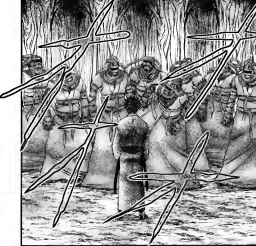




VILLAGERS!!

PREPARE  
TO CROSS THE  
MOUNTAIN!

WAIT FOR US HERE!















YOU KILLED  
SHIRAYUKI?



YOU  
DID IT?



IF I WOULD  
HAVE KNOWN  
BEFORE—

—I WONDER  
WHAT I WOULD  
HAVE DONE?











































THE FOG IS  
POISONOUS!!

IF WE STAY HERE  
TOO LONG...!



GRAVE!











THEY LOOK LIKE  
MESMERISTS

LET ME HANDLE THEM...



GRAVE!  
HOLD IT.



GYOUJINHAN-  
NYAHARAMITAJI

SHOUKENGU-  
ON-KAGU

















A close-up, black and white manga-style illustration of a character with long, light-colored hair. The character has a pained expression, with their mouth open as if shouting or crying. Their right hand is raised to their forehead, with fingers spread. The background is filled with numerous thick, black, diagonal and horizontal lines, suggesting a chaotic or violent environment. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the character's head.

**AGHHH!**

A black and white manga-style illustration showing a character lying on the ground amidst a large pile of debris, including what appears to be a broken wooden structure. The character is wearing a dark, patterned garment. Their head is tilted back, and their mouth is open in a shout. The scene is filled with dynamic, radiating lines emanating from the character, emphasizing the impact or intensity of the moment. A speech bubble is located to the right of the character.

**GRAVE!**

A black and white manga-style illustration showing a character lying on the ground amidst a large pile of debris, including what appears to be a broken wooden structure. The character is wearing a dark, patterned garment. Their head is tilted back, and their mouth is open in a shout. The scene is filled with dynamic, radiating lines emanating from the character, emphasizing the impact or intensity of the moment. A speech bubble is located to the left of the character.

**WE HAVE BOTH  
OF THEM—**





ZEMUTOUDDOUSHU

ZEMUIYDOUSHU

SEDAIJINSHU





SHUSHU-HABAKU!

КУ-БОУ-НА!















# Kana Takeuchi

## Birthday

July 12, 1979

## Favorite Food

Instant Ramen

## Favorite Book

"Tokyo Blues" (Translation: "Night Flight")  
by Margaret Nagano

## Favorite Sweets

Chocolate

## Favorite Movie

Neighborhood Before Christmas

## Favorite Comic

"Kawaii-kun no Fuku Fuku no Yoru"  
by Nagi Katsuragi  
(Translation: "Kawaii's Sleepy/Sleepy Night")

Q: What is a typical day for you like?

A: I'm usually working! When I'm not working, I'm having a lot of fun!

Q: How do you get yourself in the mood to draw?

A: I meditate and try to keep myself from being overwhelmed with information. I try to get some sun and create a psychologically healthy environment.

Q: Death Trigger is a unique book with an emphasis on action and martial arts. Your background is in shounen manga. What do you like about working on both types of comics?

A: I get really excited after completing a frame that looks really cool. In shounen comics I feel that the emphasis is placed in very different ways compared to shounen manga. I also pay a lot of attention to getting the correct angles.

Q: The fight scenes in Death Trigger are great! How do you work out the choreography? Do you take martial arts yourself?

A: Thank you very much!

I do occasionally take photographs of stardom in certain poses for reference, but about 90% of it comes from my imagination. I did take some breaks back when I was in junior high.

Q: Death Trigger has such an otherworldly quality to it. Where exactly does it take place?

A: It takes place in the past, in Japan.

Q: Many people that have worked on the book were really upset when they found out that Ah Sheng's dies. It was quite a shock because she was such a cool character, a really strong woman. All of your characters feel very real. Are any of them based on real people other than the actors?

A: Unfortunately, there are no real-life role models for the characters.

From the very beginning, it was decided that Sheng's character was going to die. However, her character really grew on me, and I had a really hard time with her character dying.

Q: What are your opinions of the upcoming feature film? What can a novel tell better than a film and what can a film tell better than a novel?

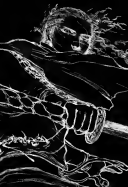
A: In the novel, Grace is a very bright, charming, fun character. I think if you film him as Grace after going through the various tribulations in the manga, then his character becomes more appealing. I'm looking forward to the novel because the actors chosen should be really awesome.

Q: Were there any unpublished works that influenced this project?

A: Actually a song called "Kasachobu" by Ue no Gyō (track #1 on the album "Masamune") has been the theme song of this project for me.

Q: Please tell me about your favorite music, singer or band.

A: I love listening to classical music or rock and roll. My favorite singer, Hide (of "X" Japan and Spread Beaver), passed away a few years ago, but I still love him. My favorite bands are Aerosmith, Sex Machine Guns and sometimes Shogun Yō.



Q: Do you have any pets?

A: No, but I would like to have a Goliath tiger, even if it would probably live longer than I will.

Q: What is your favorite animal?

A: I love cats – in fact I want to be one.

Q: Do you believe in ghosts, life after death, or reincarnation?

A: I am a Catholic so I would like to go to heaven.

Q: In OE, which character was the most difficult to portray?

A: Grace, definitely. At first, he was so dumb as a rock so it took a while to make him seem more human.

Q: In OE, who is your favorite character?

A: He is my favorite because he's very similar. We're both academics with emotional weaknesses.

WRITTEN BY  
CARLOS V.  
MORILLAS  
Illustrated by  
Fantasy



AN UNKNOWN TIME.  
AN UNKNOWN PLACE. WITHOUT REASONS.  
WITH NO FUTURE.  
HE ONLY DESIRE IS... DESTRUCTION!

Cross has "evolution" and is preparing to leave the town  
that he grew up in to follow the mysterious priest. But looking just outside  
the village is a bizarre dark-eyed child whose very presence brings  
chills. Much more than Cross is wondering in the forest. Dark things  
been another realm are appearing and they're not about to  
let Cross and the priest out alive.

THIS BOOK READS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT

ISBN 1-84156-632-5



13  
ISBN



[www.morillas-fantasy.com](http://www.morillas-fantasy.com)

The book cover features a detailed illustration of a man with dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a white tunic with a dark crisscross pattern over the chest and a dark sash. He is holding a sword with a dark hilt and a silver blade. The background is dark and moody, with a hint of a landscape. The title 'DEATH' is written in large, stylized, metallic letters, and the author's name 'KANA TANIGUCHI' is at the bottom in a smaller, stylized font.

BOOK TWO

# DEATH

T A N I G U C H I

KANA TANIGUCHI